

WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1. A receiver for high speed data interconnect, comprising:
 - a sampling system comprising at least one sampler for sampling data, for providing a series of signal copies, each signal copy having a Bit Error Rate Distribution;
 - a means to combine the signal copies so as to produce a combined signal having the Bit Error Rate Distribution narrower than the distribution of a single signal copy.
2. A receiver according to claim 1, wherein the sampling system comprises a plurality of samplers producing a series of copies simultaneously.
3. A receiver according to claim 1, wherein the sampling system comprises at least one sampler coupled to a set of delays or a variable delay, for providing a series of spaced in time signal copies.
4. A receiver according to claim 1, wherein the sampling system comprises a plurality of samplers coupled to a set of delays, for providing a plurality of spaced in time signal copies.
5. A receiver according to claim 1, wherein the means for combining signal copies comprises a logic network that compares the values of bit errors relative to each signal copy, and a means for selecting the signal copy with the minimum Bit Error Rate.
6. A receiver according to claim 1, wherein the signal copies are spaced in time by fixed delays.
7. A receiver according to claim 1, wherein the signal copies are spaced in time by variable delays.
8. A receiver according to claim 1, wherein the signal copies are spaced in time uniformly.

9. A receiver according to claim 5, wherein the logic network comprises at least one majority element for providing a value Q, where Q is the value at the majority of its inputs, and a number E, where E is the number of its inputs having value different from the value at the majority of inputs.

5 10. A receiver according to claim 3, further comprising a means to determine the bit errors against the delay, a means to determine the delay corresponding to a copy with minimal bit error and a means to apply the delay determined thereby to other samplers.

10 11. A receiver according to claim 1, wherein the sampler is implemented as register, flip-flop, latch, sample-and-hold, or track-and-hold device.

12. A receiver according to claim 1, wherein the sampler latches data at a point where the BER function has its minimum.

13. A receiver according to claim 1, further comprising a pipeline of latency adjustment elements.

15 14. A receiver according to claim 3, wherein said delay elements are incorporated in a data path, in a clock signal path, or in both paths.

15. A receiver according to claim 9, wherein the minimum number of inputs at the majority element is 3.

20 16. A receiver according to claim 1, wherein the number of samplers per bit is from 14 to 20, preferably, 16.

17. A receiver according to claim 1, wherein at least one signal copy from the sampler is used to generate a feedback to control a source of threshold voltage to balance the number of ones and zeros in the sampled data.

18. A method of high speed data interconnect, comprising the steps of:

25 - sampling data using at least one sampler, for providing a series of signal copies, each signal copy having a Bit Error Rate Distribution;

- combining the signal copies so as to produce a combined signal having the Bit Error Rate Distribution narrower than the distribution of a single signal copy.

19. A method according to claim 18, wherein a series of simultaneous signal copies is provided.

20. A method according to claim 18, wherein a series of spaced in time signal copies is provided.

21. A method according to claim 18, wherein the step of combining signal copies comprises:

- comparing signal copies to determine the number of a signal copy with minimal BER, and
- selecting the signal copy with minimal BER.

22. A method according to claim 18, wherein the data are sampled at a point where the BER function has its minimum.

23. A method according to claim 20, wherein the spaced in time signal copies are produced by using a set of delays or a variable delay, the step of combining signal copies comprises determining the bit errors against the delay and determining the delay corresponding to a copy with minimal bit error; wherein the step of sampling data is performed at a time corresponding to the delay determined thereby.

24. A method according to claim 18, wherein the minimum number of inputs at majority elements is 3.

25. A method according to claim 18, wherein the number of samplers per bit is from 14 to 20, preferably, 16.

26. A method according to claim 18, wherein the data is transmitted along a communication channel comprising a plurality of parallel buses, on which a plurality of receivers is arranged.

27. A method according to claim 18, further comprising a step of adjusting latency using a pipeline of latency adjustment elements.

28. A method according to claim 27, wherein initial pipeline values are updated during initialization procedure to provide the same latency on each bit.

29. A communication channel employing a receiver according to claim 1.

5 30. A communication channel as claimed in claim 29, wherein the number of samplers per bit is from 14 to 20, preferably 16.

31. A communication channel according to claim 29, comprising a plurality of parallel buses, on which a plurality of receivers as claimed in claim 1 is arranged.

10 32. A communication channel according to claim 31, wherein each receiver comprises a pipeline of latency adjustment elements.

33. A receiver according to claim 32, wherein initial pipeline values are updated during initialization procedure to provide the same latency on each bit.

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